



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012 – (213) 974-1465

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. James Cragin
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore
Mr. Michael A. Russell

MINUTES **OF THE REGULAR MEETING** **OF MARCH 10, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Montano at 10:08 a.m. A list of those in attendance follows.

ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL

Present:

Chairperson Eleanor Montano
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
Carl Moore
Michael Russell
Helen Stathatos

Excused Absent:

James Cragin
John Hammargren

Staff

Khanh Nguyen
Gene Romig
Paul Byrne
Sherry Scates

Guests

Jody Kent, ACLU

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2004

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Stathatos and unanimously carried, the Minutes of March 3, 2004 were approved with the following addition:

Page 2, under VICE CHAIR'S REPORT, 2nd paragraph

Commissioner Stathatos reported that Sheriff Baca stated he would be taking the special Sheriff's Badge which belonged to Mrs. Brand and displaying it in a case in honor and memory of Mrs. Brand *sometime in the near future.*

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Montano reported that Commissioner Cragin is now home from the hospital and is recuperating.

Khanh Nguyen, Executive Office, reported on behalf of Violet Varona Lukens, Executive Officer, that Ms. Lukens received the letter expressing the Commissioners wishes regarding the memorabilia and personal effects of Mrs. Brand. Ms. Nguyen stated that the letter was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors and the CAO, and that the County Counsel will be asked to furnish the legal definition of personal property versus County property. Additionally, the administrators of Mrs. Brand's estate will be notified and consulted of County Counsel's advisement before any action is taken.

CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

Chairperson Montano reported that after reviewing the facility audit reports from DCFS, Probation and the Auditor Controller, she has some concerns regarding the severity and number of deficiencies noted on at least five of the reports. Commissioners agreed that they would be conducting inspections on those facilities soon to determine if the deficiencies were being addressed.

(Commissioners Russell and Moore joined the meeting)

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

- Commissioners Montano, Bacio and Moore visited the Long Beach Courthouse on March 9th.

Commissioner Bacio reported that the overall security system at the facility is obsolete and largely inoperable. The panic buttons inside and adjacent to the elevators and the sensors in the elevator doors do not work and are a security and safety hazard to security personnel, as well as the public.

Note: Following discussion, Commissioners directed staff to write a letter to the Honorable Robert A. Dukes, Presiding Judge, with a copy to the Board of Supervisors, Sheriff Baca, County Counsel, and the Chief Administrative Officer, advising them of these security and safety issues.

- Commissioners Montano, Bacio and Moore visited the following Group Homes on March 4th:

Zenith Youth House, Page 113 #2 – Satisfactory

Zenith Youth House, Page 113 #3 – Not Home

- Commissioners Stathatos and Cannella visited the following Group Homes as indicated:

Ettie Lee Group Home, Page 34 #2 on March 4th - Satisfactory

Eggleston Youth Center, Page 32 #1 on March 8th - Satisfactory

Eggleston Youth Center, Page 32 #2 on March 8th - Satisfactory

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners Bacio, Montano, Moore, and Russell will visit the Compton Court and Sheriff Station and the Huntington Park Branch Court.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED
ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE MEETING)**

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sherry Scates/Paul Byrne
Commission Services**